

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

June 2012 – Week 2

Air Date: June 3 – June 9 (Sunday – Saturday)



TITLE: THE HORSE MARINES

JUNE 1836 AND SNEAKY TEXANS WIN THE DAY

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

JUNE 3, 1836. NEAR COPANO BAY. ALERTED TO THE ARRIVAL OF AN UNKNOWN SHIP OFFSHORE, MAJOR ISAAC BURTON AND THIRTY MOUNTED VOLUNTEERS ARRIVE TO INVESTIGATE. PARTIALLY HIDDEN BY THE DUNES, THEY SIGNAL THE SHIP FOR HELP.

THE SHIP SENDS A ROWBOAT WHILE RAISING A MEXICAN FLAG. BURTON'S MEN USE THE SMALL BOAT TO RETURN AND COMMANDEER THE SHIP – THE SCHOONER "WATCHMAN" LOADED WITH SUPPLIES FOR THE MEXICAN TROOPS.

ONCE ONBOARD, BURTON AND HIS MEN SHREWDLY USE THE WATCHMAN TO CAPTURE TWO MORE MEXICAN VESSELS. THE BOOTY IS TAKEN TO GALVESTON AND THE UNLIKELY HEROES ARE DUBBED "HORSE MARINES".

TEXAS "HORSE MARINES" WENT TO SEA 176 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

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Hobart Huson, "HORSE MARINES," *Handbook of Texas Online*

(<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/qjh01>), accessed May 31, 2012. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

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